

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00322 091355Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 AID-05 AF-06

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /086 W

----- 056346

R 091310Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3045

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0322

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT EG

SUBJECT: QADHAFI CAUGHT RED-HANDED

1. OUR ONLY COMMENT ON THE ARREST OF A TOTAL OF TEN LIBYAN OPERATIVES AT ROME AIRPORT AND IN CAIRO, IS THE OBVIOUS ONE: QADHAFI HAS BEEN CAUGHT RED-HANDED IN A HARE-BRAINED ATTEMPT TO BRING MUHAYSHI BACK TO LIBYA BY FORCE, AFTER FAILING TO TALK HIM IN RETURNING PEACEFULLY. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DENIAL OF ANY CONNNECTION WITH THE THREE ARMED MEN ARRESTED AT ROME AIRPORT IS MADE UNBELIEVABLE BY ITS OWN SIMULTANEOUS REQUEST TO THE ITALIANS FOR THEIR RETURN (TRIPOLI 318). NO ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO EXPLAIN WHAT THE OTHER SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WERE DOING IN CAIRO. WHETHER AL-HUNI WAS ALSO A TARGET OF THE GROUP SEEMS LESS CLEAR. ACCORDING TO THE LIBYAN PRESS OF MARCH 9, "FOREIGN MINISTER AND RCC MINISTER" AL-HUNI ARRIVED IN ROME MARCH 8 FROM CAIRO, WAS MET BY AN ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL, AND IN UNDERGOING MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TRIPOL 00322 091355Z

2. SO FAR, THE REGIME'S PUBLIC REACTION TO THE ARRESTS

HAS BEEN TO SUGGEST THAT IT IS ALL SOMEHOW AN EGYPTIAN PLOT (TRIPOLI 319), AND TO ACCUSE EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES OF HARASSING LIBYANYLIVING IN EGYPT. COMMENTING ON THIS, THE "EDITOR OF THE LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY (ARNA)" MAKES A VEILED THREAT IN THE PRESS OF MARCH 9, NOTING THAT "IF LIBYAN AUTHORITIES WERE TO FOLLOW THE SAME METHODS WITH EGYPTIAN CITIZENS, IT WOULD BE A GREAT CALAMITY FOR EGYPT".

3. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE REPORTS FROM CAIRO, CARRIED BY FBIS, THAT EGYPTIAN WORKERS HAVE BEEN TURNED BACK AT THE BORDER. THIS APPEARS TO BE UNRELATED TO THE ARRESTS IN CAIRO AND ROME, AND TO BE A PART OF A CAMPAIGN TO CONTROL IMMIGRATION MORE CLOSELY WHICH BEGAN ABOUT MARCH 4. AN OFFICIAL OF THE CONSULAR AFFAIRS SECTION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CONFIRMED TO US THAT A SYSTEMATIC CHECK OF ALL FOREIGNERS HERE WAS UNDERWAY, AND THAT ALL THOSE WITHOUT THE PROPER PAPERS WOULD BE IDENTIFIED AND EXPELLED. AS PART OF THIS CAMPAIGN, EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS, WHO AS CITIZENS OF THE CONFEDERATION HAVE BEEN ALLOWED IN THE PAST TO ENTER THE COUNTRY ON THE STRENGTH OF IDENTITY CARDS ALONE, ARE NOW BEING REQUIRED TO PRESENT PASSPORTS. THE OFFICIAL DENIED THAT THIS WAS AN ANTI-EGYPTAN MEASURE, ALTHOUGH IT WILL OBVIOUSLY FALL HARDEST ON EGYPTIAN IMMIGRWLT FTB # LIBYA; WHO NOW NUMBER MORE THAN 300,000. CARLE

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, ARRESTS, PLOTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TRIPOL00322
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760089-0027
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760378/aaaacqxm.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <26 APR 2004 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QADHAFI CAUGHT RED-HANDED
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINS, LY, EG, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006